Message Text

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O 171947Z JUL 77 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

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FOR AMBASSADOR FROM DRPER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, SY, US

SUBJECT: SUBJECT: SYRIAN JEWRY

REF: DAMASCUS 4478

- 1. DISCUSSED REFTEL WITH ATHERTON. YOU WILL RECEIVE FURTHER GUIDANCE TOMORROW, SINCE OTHER OFFICES AND WH MUST BE CHECKED. BASCICALLY DEFER TO YOUR JUDGMENT SINCE BASIC OBJECTIVE MUST BE TO SECURE RESULTS. AGREE MUST TREAT AS US-SYRIA ISSUE.
- 2. SHALOM SAW CARTER AFTER RPT AFTER ASSAD-CARTER MTG GENEVA IN COMPANY SOLARZ, AND CARTER REPORTEDLY GAVE FAVORABLE IMPRESSION OF ASSAD AND LATTER'S WILLINGNESS SYMPATHETICALLY CONSIDER CASES OF UNMARRIED WOMEN ON INDIVIDUAL BASIS. I INTRODUCED SHALOM AND GOLDMAN TO CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 166557

SYRIAN CHARGE ON JUNE 6 AND CHARGE INDEED APPEARED TO BE MORE IMPRESSED BY MY PRESENCE THAN ACTUAL CIRCUMSTANCES WARRANTED. HE TENDED TO TREAT IT AS OFFICIAL DEMARCHE, BUT ACTUAL EXCHANGES WERE LOW-KEY. I DID NOT RPT NOT MENTION ANYTHING RPT ANYTHING ABOUT CARTER, ALTHOUGH SHALOM MAY HAVE, AGAIN IN LOW-KEY WAY. FOCUS OF TALK WAS ON WAYS OF IMPROVING COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN SYRIANS AND

SYRIAN JEWISH COMMUNITY IN US.

- 3. I AM NOT RPT NOT INCLINED TO MENTION THESE MEETINGS IN YOUR PROPOSED AIDE-MEMOIRE.
- 4. AS FOR CONTINGENCY TALKING POINTS, SUBJECT TO ATHERTON REVIEW, AM INCLINED TO RECOMMEND BEGIN BE TOLD, IF HE RAISES MATTER, THAT MURPHY HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY AND PRESIDENCY ABOUT MARRIAGE PROPOSAL ISSUE AND HAS RECEIVED ASSURANCES THAT THE MATTER IS UNDER STUDY. TALKING POINTS WOULD INCLUDE ADVICE TO REMAIN PATIENT AND ALLOW TIME TO WORK THINGS OUT. VANCE

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